

## Message Text

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42

ACTION AF-04

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SS-14 SP-02 /021 W

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R 091310Z APR 76

FM AMEMBASSY FREETOWN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2920

INFO AMEMBASSY MONROVIA

AMEMBASSY CONAKRY

C O N F I D E N T I A L FREETOWN 1053

STADIS////////////////////////////////////

LIMDIS

AF FOR ASSISTANT SECRETARY SCHAUFLE FROM AMBASSADOR

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PORG PFOR SL LI

SUBJECT: MANO RIVER UNION

REF: STATE 74904

1. SEEN FROM POINT OF VIEW OF BOTH OUR BILATERAL RELATIONS WITH SIRRA LEONE AND OUR DESIRE FOR MORE SYMPATHETIC SIERRA LEONEAN BEHAVIOR IN INTERNATIONAL FORA, RECOGNITION AND SUPPORT BY USG FOR MANO RIVER UNION IS IMPORTANT. ALTHOUGH ORIGINALLY INTENDED PURELY AS A CUSTOMS UNION (CUSTOMS AGREEMENT LIKELY IN THE NEXT COUPLE OF MONTHS), UNDER ABLE LEADERSHIP SEC GEN CYRIL BRIGHT, MRU IS MOVING FORWARD WITH JOINT PROJECTS OF BOTH DEVELOPMENTAL AND STRUCTURAL BASIS WITH GOAL OF RATIONALIZING EFFORTS FOR THESE SMALL TWO COUNTRIES IN ORDER TO MINIMIZE THE OVERLAP OF INSTITUTIONS.

2. TIME AND EFFORT SPENT BY CIVIL SERVANTS, CABINET MEMBERS AND PRESIDENT STEVENS HIMSELF INDICATE THAT MRU IS SEEN BY GOSL AS IMPORTANT INSTITUTION. GOSL WILLINGNESS TO FUND SECRETARIAT ACTIVITIES IN SPITE OF  
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CURRENT FINANCIAL PROBLEMS IS FURTHER PROOF OF THIS.

3. SEEN FROM POLITICAL PERSPECTIVE, IT DEFINITELY IN INTEREST USG TO ENCOURAGE CLOSER GOSL LINKS WITH GOL. IN REGIONAL CONTEXT, THIS WOULD DEFINITELY MEAN LESSENING OF OPPORTUNITIES FOR LINKS AND INFLUENCE BY CONJURY. IN PARA H REFTEL ON MULTILATERAL AFFAIRS, LIBERIA WAS INCLUDED AMONG THOSE "MODERATE" FORCES OF THE NON-ALIGNED MOVEMENT WHICH ARE ACCESSIBLE TO US BILATERALLY, GENERALLY SHARE OUR VIEWS ON THE UNDESIRABILITY IN THE INTERNATIONAL FORA ON CONFRONTATION, ETC. CURRENT STATE OF USG/GOSL RELATIONS WOULD PUT LATTER IN SAME CATEGORY, BUT GOSL FREQUENTLY WAVERS IN ITS POSITION. INCREASING INTERDEPENDENCE BETWEEN GOSL AND GOL LIKELY TO BUTTRESS GOSL PROCLIVITY FOR INTERNATIONAL MODERATION. USG SHOULD ENCOURAGE DEVELOPMENT OF THIS ORGANIZATION. UK HIGH COMMISSION AND FRG EMBASSY HERE CLEARLY AGREE ON THE POLITICAL IMPORTANCE OF MRU.

4. UNFORTUANTELY AID/W HAS BEEN LESS THAN FORTHCOMING TOWARDS MRU. THEIR BUREAUCRATS, NOTICEABLY LED BY DON BROWN, BOB NEUSMAN, AND ED DONAHUE, EXPRESSING SKEPTISM ABOUT LIKELY SHORT-LIVED NATURE OF MRU AND BRANDISHING WEAPON OF "CONGRESSIONAL MANDATE", HAVE CONSISTENTLY BEEN NEGATIVE TOWARDS PROPOSALS OF USAID/L TO SUPPORT MRU. I SEE DUPLISTIC TREATMENT HERE. IN PROVIDING BILATERAL ASSISTANCE, USG FIRST MAKES BASIC DECISION WHETHER TO GIVE AID TO A GIVEN COUNTRY THEN LOOKS FOR WORTHWHILE PROJECTS. IN DEALING WITH MRU, AID/W PUTS THE BURDEN OF PROOF ON THE IDENTIFICATION OF PROJECTS WITHIN THE CONGRESSIONAL MANDATE BEFORE MAKING ANY DECISION TO SUPPORT SOMETHING FOR THE MRU. I BELIEVE STATE SHOULD NOW INTERVENE TO GET DECISION AT ASSISTANT ADMINISTRATOR LEVEL THAT SUPPORT FOR MRU IN US NATIONAL INTEREST. LOWER BUREAUCRATS CAN THEN BE GIVEN ASSIGNMENT TO FIND SOME PROJECT FOR SPECIFIC SUPPORT. AID/W SHOULD REALIZE THAT WEST AFRICA RICE DEVELOPMENT ASSOCIATION (WARDA), WHOSE HEADQUARTERS HAPPEN TO BE IN MONROVIA, IS COMPLETELY SEPARATE MATTER FROM SUPPORT TO MRU.

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5. BEIDES SPECIFIC AID/W ASSISTANCE TO MRU, I RECOMMEND THAT, IF ANY OF SECRETARY KISSINGER'S SPEECHES IN FORTHCOMING AFRICAN TRIP TOUCHES ON REGIONAL OR SUBREGIONAL GROUPS IN CONTEXT OF INTERDEPENDENCE, REFERENCES TO MRU SHOULD BE INCLUDED IN TEXT, AND RECOMMEND THAT LIBERIAN SPEECH INCLUDE SLIGHTLY LONGER PARAGRAPH ON MRU WITH COMMENT ABOUT NEIGHBORING SIERRA LEONE WHICH WE COULD USE TO ADVANTAGE HERE.

6. WOULD APPRECIATE YOUR SHARING MY VIEWS WITH  
AMBASSADOR CARTER IN WASHINGTON.  
SAMUELS

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## Message Attributes

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**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
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